

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York NY 10017
U.S.A.

AOUT 23 2012
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Excellency:

I am writing to express my genuine and fundamental concerns over your intention to travel to Tehran in the coming days for the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Iran has, for years, been a negative and destabilizing influence on international affairs. The ruling regime has repeatedly ignored the international will, including but not limited to Security Council resolutions. Its egregious human rights record denies large segments of the Iranian population even the most basic of rights, while threatening the very existence of one of its neighbours. For example, on August 2, 2012, President Ahmadinejad said that, "anyone who loves freedom and justice must strive for the annihilation of the Zionist regime in order to pave the way for world justice and freedom" and on August 17, 2012, he said that, "the very existence of the Zionist regime is an insult to humankind and an affront to all world nations. Confronting Zionists will also pave the way for saving the whole humankind from exploitation, depravity and misery".

In short, Iran's actions at home and abroad undermine the letter and spirit of the United Nations' foundational documents. As custodian of the United Nations' Charter, I implore you to reconsider this planned visit.

Iran's current rulers will use your presence to further their own, hateful purposes. Such a visit would serve only to legitimize and condone the record of this regime, which Canada views as the single most significant risk to global peace and security today.

For all of the reasons outlined above, I strongly encourage you to reconsider your attendance at the upcoming Summit in Tehran.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

John Baird, P.C., M.P.

Canada